Vasak Siwni

(fl. c. 413 – c. 452)

BRIEFING

Vasak Siwni (Armenian: Վասակ Սիւնի; d. 452) was an Armenian prince, who was the lord of the principality of Syunik from 413 to 452, and also served as *marzban* (margrave) of Sasanian Armenia from 442 to 452. He renounced Christianity and joined the Sasanian forces against the leaders of the Armenian rebellion in 450/1, which culminated in the defeat of the rebel forces at the battle of Avarayr.

SOURCES

The contemporary Armenian historians Elishe and Lazar Parpetsi both give differing reports of the aftermath of the battle, albeit with the same outcome. According to Elishe, the Iranian general Mushkan Niusalavurt was greatly upset at the heavy casualties the Iranians had suffered in the battle, and thus gave Vasak Siwni free rein in Armenia. However, this resulted in even more bloodshed and turmoil, which led to the protest of many Armenian notables, and also by Mushkan himself. As a result, Vasak was imprisoned, while Adhur-Hormizd was installed the *marzban* of Armenia. According to Lazar, however, Mushkan was dismissed and sent back to Iran after he reported the Iranian losses to Yazdegerd II, who then appointed Adhur-Hormizd as the *marzban* of Armenia. Not long after, Vasak was imprisoned due to his deception towards the Armenians which had caused further turmoil.